*Pronouns*

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun. Usually the pronoun substitutes for a specific noun, known as its *antecedent*.

- When the *wheel* squeaks, *it* is greased.

Although most pronouns function as substitutes for nouns, some can function as adjectives modifying nouns.

- *This* experience will surely be a lesson to me.

Most of the pronouns in English are listed in this section.

1. Personal Pronouns:

Personal pronouns refer to specific persons or things.

- Singular: I, me, you, she, her, he, him, it

- Plural: our, ours, your, their

1. Possessive Pronouns:

Possessive pronouns indicate ownership.

- Singular: my, mine, your, yours, her, hers, his, its

- Plural: our, ours, your, yours, their, theirs

1. Intensive and Reflexive Pronouns:

Intensive pronouns emphasize a noun or another pronoun (The minister *herself* met us at the door). Reflexive pronouns name a receiver of an action identical with the doer of the action (Paula cut *herself*).

- Singular: myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself

- Plural: ourselves, yourselves, themselves

1. Relative and/or Interrogative Pronouns:

Relative pronouns introduce subordinate clauses functioning as adjectives (The man *who robbed us* was never caught). In addition to introducing the clause, the relative pronoun, in this case *who*, points back to a noun or pronoun that the clause modifies (*man*).

- who, whom, whose, which, that

1. Demonstrative Pronouns:

Demonstrative pronouns identify or point to nouns. Frequently they function as adjectives (*This* chair is my favourite), but they may also function as noun equivalents (*This* is my favourite chair).

- this, that, these, those

1. Indefinite Pronouns:

Indefinite pronouns refer to nonspecific persons or things. Most are always singular (*everyone, each*); some are always plural (*both, many*); a few may be singular or plural.

- all, another, any, anybody, anyone, anything, both, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, few, many, neither, nobody, none, no one, nothing, one, several, some, somebody, someone, something

1. Reciprocal Pronouns:

Reciprocal pronouns refer to individual parts of a plural antecedent (By turns, we helped each other through college).

- each other, one another

Exercise A: Circle the pronouns in each sentence and identify the type of pronoun.

1. Every society honours its live conformists and its dead troublemakers. (Mignon McLaughlin)

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1. Watch the faces of those who bow low. (Polish proverb)

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1. I have written some poetry that I myself don’t understand (Carl Sandburg)

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1. This is the flag of the future, but it does not dishonour the past. (Lester B. Pearson)

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1. I must govern the clock, not be governed by it. (Golda Meir)

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1. Nothing is interesting if you are not interested. (Helen MacInness)

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1. We will never have friends if we expect to find them without fault. (Thomas Fuller)

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1. The gods help those who help themselves. (Aesop)

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1. You never find yourself until you face the truth. (Pearl Bailey)

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